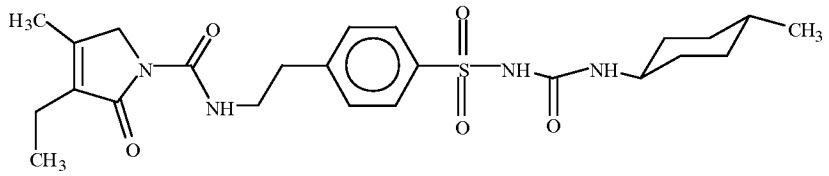
IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 32 *et seq*. as follows:

Claims 1 to 31 (cancelled)

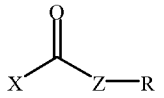
32. (currently amended) A process for the preparation of *trans*-3-Ethyl-2,5-dihydro-4-methyl-N-[2-[4-[[[[(4-methylcyclohexyl)amino]carbonyl]amino]sulfonyl]phenyl]ethyl]-2-oxo-1*H*-pyrrole-1-carboxamide, a compound of the formula 1,



Formula 1

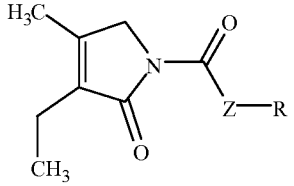
comprising,

a) reacting 3-Ethyl-4-methyl-3-pyrrolidin-2-one with a compound of formula 2,



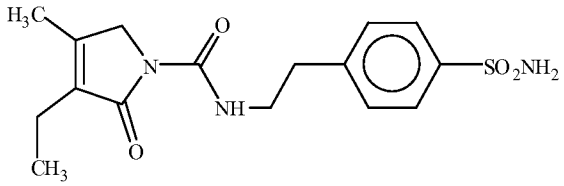
Formula 2

to obtain a compound of formula 3,



Formula 3

b) reacting a compound of formula 3 with 4-(2-Aminoethyl)benzene sulfonamide to obtain 4-[2-(3-Ethyl-4-methyl-2-carbonylpyrrolidineamido)ethyl]benzene sulfonamide, a compound of formula 4,



Formula 4

c) and further reacting the compound of formula 4 with *trans*-4-methylcyclohexyl isocyanate to obtain the compound of formula 1,

wherein,

X is halogen, nitroaryl or haloaryl,

Z is O, ~~S or NY, wherein Y is C_4-C_5-alkyl, C_4-C_5-haloalkyl, aryl or aralkyl,~~ and

R is aryl ~~or heteroaryl~~, where aryl ~~or hetroaryl~~ radical is unsubstituted or substituted by one or more radicals from the group consisting of nitro, halogen, cyano, azido, haloalkyl, CO-R^1, SR^2, SO-R^3 and SO_2-R^4,

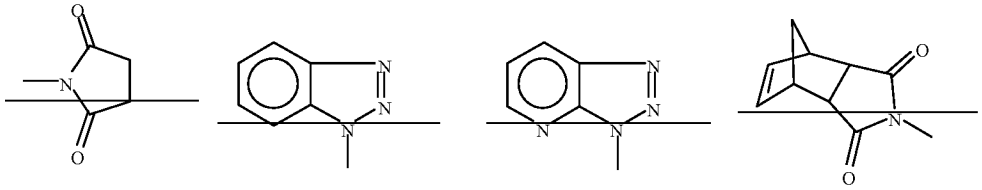
R^1 is H, C_1-C_5-alkyl, C_2-C_5-alkenyl, C_2-C_5-alkynyl, C_1-C_5-alkoxy or C_2-C_5-alkenoxy,

R^2 is C_1-C_5-alkyl, C_2-C_5-alkenyl, C_2-C_5-alkynyl, C_1-C_5-haloalkyl or C_2-C_5-haloalkenyl,

R^3 is C_1-C_5-alkyl, C_2-C_5-alkenyl, C_2-C_5-alkynyl, C_1-C_5-haloalkyl or C_2-C_5-haloalkenyl,

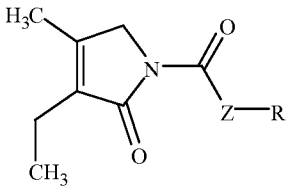
R^4 is C_1-C_5-alkyl, C_2-C_5-alkenyl, C_2-C_5-alkynyl, C_1-C_5-haloalkyl or C_2-C_5-haloalkenyl. ~~, or~~

~~the moiety represented below by P, Q, S or T.~~



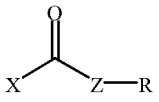
(P) (Q) (S) (T)

33) (currently amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula 3,



Formula 3

comprising reacting 3-Ethyl-4-methyl-3-pyrrolidin-2-one with a compound of formula 2,



Formula 2

wherein,

X is halogen, nitroaryl or haloaryl,

Z is O, ~~S or NY, wherein Y is C_4-C_5-alkyl, C_4-C_5-haloalkyl, aryl or aralkyl,~~ and

R is aryl ~~or heteroaryl,~~ where aryl ~~or hetroaryl~~ radical is unsubstituted or substituted by one or more radicals from the group consisting of nitro, halogen, cyano, azido, haloalkyl, CO-R^1, SR^2, SO-R^3 and SO_2-R^4,

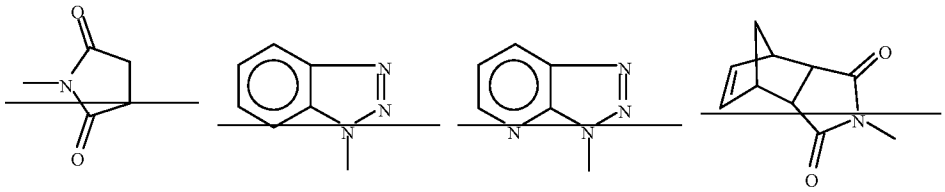
R^1 is H, C_1-C_5-alkyl, C_2-C_5-alkenyl, C_2-C_5-alkynyl, C_1-C_5-alkoxy or C_2-C_5-alkenoxy,

R^2 is C_1-C_5-alkyl, C_2-C_5-alkenyl, C_2-C_5-alkynyl, C_1-C_5-haloalkyl or C_2-C_5-haloalkenyl,

R^3 is C_1-C_5-alkyl, C_2-C_5-alkenyl, C_2-C_5-alkynyl, C_1-C_5-haloalkyl or C_2-C_5-haloalkenyl,

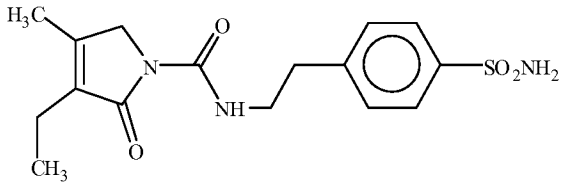
R^4 is C_1-C_5-alkyl, C_2-C_5-alkenyl, C_2-C_5-alkynyl, C_1-C_5-haloalkyl or C_2-C_5-haloalkenyl. ~~, or~~

~~the moiety represented below by P, Q, S or T.~~



(P) (Q) (S) (T)

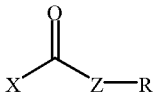
34) (currently amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula 4,



Formula 4

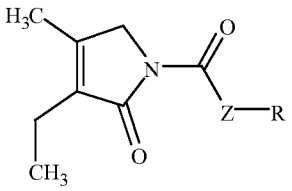
comprising,

a) reacting 3-Ethyl-4-methyl-3-pyrrolidin-2-one with a compound of formula 2,



Formula 2

to obtain a compound of formula 3,



Formula 3

b) reacting a compound of formula 3 with 4-(2-Aminoethyl)benzene sulfonamide to obtain 4-[2-(3-Ethyl-4-methyl-2-carbonyl pyrrolidine amido)ethyl]benzene sulfonamide, a compound of formula 4,

wherein,

X is halogen, nitroaryl or haloaryl,

Z is O, ~~S or NY, wherein Y is C_4-C_5-alkyl, C_4-C_5-haloalkyl, aryl or aralkyl~~ and

R is aryl ~~or heteroaryl,~~ where aryl ~~or hetroaryl~~ radical is unsubstituted or substituted by one or more radicals from the group consisting of nitro, halogen, cyano, azido, haloalkyl, CO-R^1, SR^2, SO-R^3 and SO_2-R^4,

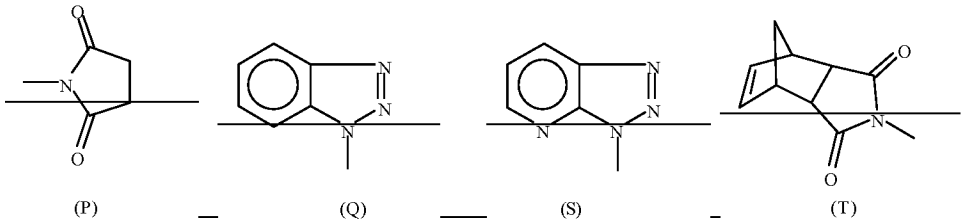
R^1 is H, C_1-C_5-alkyl, C_2-C_5-alkenyl, C_2-C_5-alkynyl, C_1-C_5-alkoxy or C_2-C_5-alkenoxy,

R^2 is C_1-C_5-alkyl, C_2-C_5-alkenyl, C_2-C_5-alkynyl, C_1-C_5-haloalkyl or C_2-C_5-haloalkenyl,

R^3 is C_1-C_5-alkyl, C_2-C_5-alkenyl, C_2-C_5-alkynyl, C_1-C_5-haloalkyl or C_2-C_5-haloalkenyl,

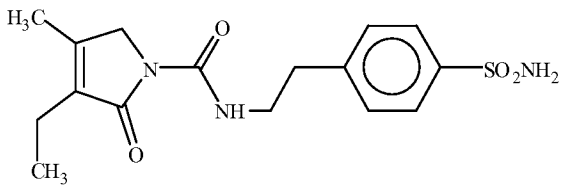
R^4 is C_1-C_5-alkyl, C_2-C_5-alkenyl, C_2-C_5-alkynyl, C_1-C_5-haloalkyl or C_2-C_5-haloalkenyl. ~~, or~~

~~the moiety represented below by P, Q, S or T.~~



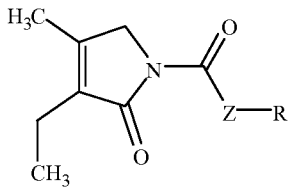
(P) (Q) (S) (T)

35) (currently amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula 4,



Formula 4

comprising reacting a compound of formula 3



Formula 3

with 4-(2-Aminoethyl)benzene sulfonamide to obtain 4-[2-(3-Ethyl-4-methyl-2-carbonyl pyrrolidine amido)ethyl]benzene sulfonamide, a compound of formula 4,

wherein,

Z is O, ~~S or NY, wherein Y is C_4-C_5-alkyl, C_4-C_5-haloalkyl, aryl or aralkyl~~ and

R is aryl ~~or heteroaryl,~~ where aryl ~~or hetroaryl~~ radical is unsubstituted or substituted by one or more radicals from the group consisting of nitro, halogen, cyano, azido, haloalkyl, CO-R^1, SR^2, SO-R^3 and SO_2-R^4,

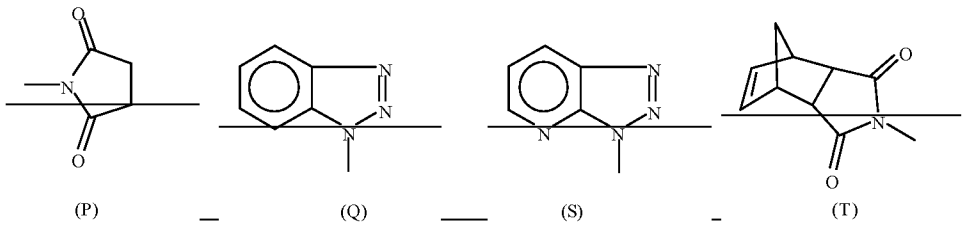
R^1 is H, C_1-C_5-alkyl, C_2-C_5-alkenyl, C_2-C_5-alkynyl, C_1-C_5-alkoxy or C_2-C_5-alkenoxy,

R^2 is C_1-C_5-alkyl, C_2-C_5-alkenyl, C_2-C_5-alkynyl, C_1-C_5-haloalkyl or C_2-C_5-haloalkenyl,

R^3 is C_1-C_5-alkyl, C_2-C_5-alkenyl, C_2-C_5-alkynyl, C_1-C_5-haloalkyl or C_2-C_5-haloalkenyl,

R^4 is C_1-C_5-alkyl, C_2-C_5-alkenyl, C_2-C_5-alkynyl, C_1-C_5-haloalkyl or C_2-C_5-haloalkenyl. ~~, or~~

~~the moiety represented below by P, Q, S or T.~~



(P) (Q) (S) (T)

36) (previously added) The process as claimed in claim 35 wherein the compound of formula 4 is further reacted with *trans*-4-methylcyclohexyl isocyanate to obtain the compound of formula 1.

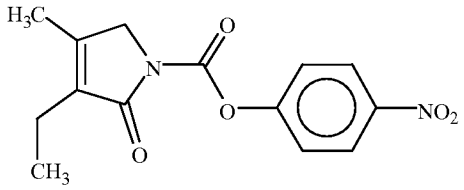
37) (previously added) The process as claimed in claim 32 wherein the reaction of 3-Ethyl-4-methyl-3-

pyrrolidin-2-one with a compound of formula 2, is carried out in presence of an

organic base and optionally an acid scavenger compound.

38) (previously added) The process as claimed in claim 32 comprising,

a) reacting 3-Ethyl-4-methyl-3-pyrrolidin-2-one with a compound of formula 2, wherein Z is O and R is 4-nitrophenyl, to obtain a compound of formula 3a,



Formula 3a

b) reacting the compound of formula 3a with 4-(2-Aminoethyl)benzene sulfonamide to obtain 4-[2-(3-Ethyl-4-methyl-2-carbonyl pyrrolidine amido)ethyl]benzene sulfonamide, a compound of formula 4,

c) and further reacting the compound of formula 4 with *trans*-4-methylcyclohexyl isocyanate to obtain the compound of formula 1.

39) (previously added) The process as claimed in claim 37 wherein the organic base is selected from the group consisting of 4-dimethylaminopyridine; 4-pyrrolidinopyridine; diisopropylethylamine, tetramethylguanidine; 1,8-diazabicyclo[5.4.0]undec-7-ene; 1,5-diazabicyclo [4.3.0] non-5-ene; 2,6-lutidine and picolines.

40) (previously added) The process as claimed in claim 37 wherein the acid scavenger compound is selected from the group consisting of trialkylamines, pyridine, sodium carbonate and potassium carbonate.

41) (previously added) The process as claimed in claim 37 wherein the organic base is 4-dimethylaminopyridine and the acid scavenger compound is triethylamine.

42) (previously added) The process as claimed in claim 32 wherein the reaction of 3-Ethyl-4-methyl-3-pyrrolidin-2-one with a compound of

formula 2 is carried out in presence of a solvent selected from the group consisting of aliphatic or aromatic hydrocarbons, ethers, nitriles and amides.

43) (previously added) The process as claimed in claim 32 wherein the reaction of 3-Ethyl-4-methyl-3-pyrrolidin-2-one with a compound of formula 2 is carried out in a chlorinated hydrocarbon solvent.

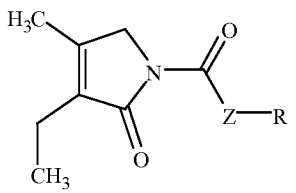
44) (previously added) The process as claimed in claim 32 wherein the reaction of 3-Ethyl-4-methyl-3-pyrrolidin-2-one with a compound of formula 2 is carried out at a temperature between the range of about 0°C to about 35°C for about 8 to about 15 hours.

45) (previously added) The process as claimed in claim 38 wherein a compound of formula 3a, is obtained in a purity of greater than 99%.

46) (previously added) The process as claimed in claim 38 wherein, a compound of formula 4 is obtained in a purity of greater than 99%.

47) (previously added) The process as claimed in claim 38 wherein, a compound of formula 1 is obtained in a purity of greater than 99%.

48) (currently amended) The intermediate compound of formula 3,



Formula 3

wherein,

Z is O, ~~S or NY, wherein Y is C_1-C_5-alkyl, C_1-C_5-haloalkyl, aryl or aralkyl~~, and

R is aryl ~~or heteroaryl,~~ where aryl ~~or hetroaryl~~ radical is unsubstituted or substituted by one or more radicals from the group consisting of nitro, halogen, cyano, azido, haloalkyl, CO-R^1, SR^2, SO-R^3 and SO_2-R^4,

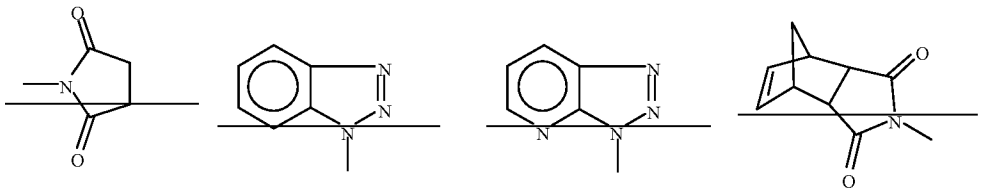
R^1 is H, C_1-C_5-alkyl, C_2-C_5-alkenyl, C_2-C_5-alkynyl, C_1-C_5-alkoxy or C_2-C_5-alkenoxy,

R^2 is C_1-C_5-alkyl, C_2-C_5-alkenyl, C_2-C_5-alkynyl, C_1-C_5-haloalkyl or C_2-C_5-haloalkenyl,

R^3 is C_1-C_5-alkyl, C_2-C_5-alkenyl, C_2-C_5-alkynyl, C_1-C_5-haloalkyl or C_2-C_5-haloalkenyl,

R^4 is C_1-C_5-alkyl, C_2-C_5-alkenyl, C_2-C_5-alkynyl, C_1-C_5-haloalkyl or C_2-C_5-haloalkenyl. ~~, or~~

~~the moiety represented below by P, Q, S or T.~~

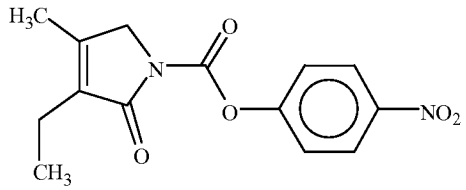


(P) (Q) (S) (T)

49) (currently amended) The intermediate compound of formula 3, as claimed in claim 48 wherein Z is O and R is aryl ~~or the moiety represented by (P), (Q), (S) or (T),~~ characterised in that aryl is phenyl substituted with one or more radicals selected from nitro, halo, cyano, 4-trifluoroalkyl, 2,4-bis(trifluoroalkyl) or 2,6-bis(trifluoroalkyl).

50) The intermediate compound of formula 3, as claimed in claim 48, wherein Z is O and R is selected from phenyl substituted with 4-nitro, 2,4-dinitro, 2,6-dinitro, 4-halo, 2,4-dihalo, 2,6-dihalo, 4-trifluromethyl, 2,4-bis(trifluoromethyl) or 2,6-bis(trifluoromethyl).

51) (previously added) The intermediate compound of formula 3a.



Formula 3a

52) (previously added) The compound as claimed in claim 51 having a purity greater than 99%.